

**Testimony before the Housing Committee
In Favor of HB 6052, AAC Supportive Housing
March 1, 2011**

Good afternoon Senator Gomes, Representative Butler and members of the Housing Committee. My name is Lee Parker; I live at 992 Whalley Avenue, New Haven. I am a member of Fellowship Place, Inc, in New Haven, CT. Fellowship Place is a supportive community that fosters Mental Health, as well as being a Supportive Housing Provider.

I am here to testify in support of HB 6052, the 150 units of Supportive Housing and associated services as outlined in Governor Malloy's Proposed Budget

I was homeless for several months, living in my employer's U-Haul trucks. At the time I was suffering from the effects of Mental Illness, and not in a good place. Since that time I have been fortunate to be able to live in a Supportive Housing unit provided by Fellowship Place. I benefit from Case Management and other Support Services, and now hold a part-time job at Wal-Mart as a Sales Associate. I look forward to advancing my career, possibly through utilizing my BS degree from Southern CT State University. I would not be able to do this if I was still out on the streets, homeless, or living in some sordid rooming house. Supportive Housing has demonstrated again and again to be a very cost effective solution to homelessness, much less expensive than crisis based services such as Emergency Rooms, In-Patient Hospitalization, Incarceration or worse. It also is much better for the person who is fortunate enough to have this sort of housing, as it gives us a stable platform to work on our recovery, and advancement through life's journey toward self-sufficiency.

I applaud Governor Malloy for recognizing the value and significance of the creation of 150 additional Supportive Housing units and the associated services needed to make an effective solution. I encourage the members of this committee to look favorably on his proposed budget.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

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